



**BENNETT CERF'S**

# BOOK OF LAUGHS

*Soy/nett*

DRAWINGS BY  
**CARL ROSE**



# Bennett Cerf's Book of LAUGHS



*Illustrated by*  
CARL ROSE



**Beginner Books**

A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE





**O**ne day Marvin went to a farm.

“Would you like to take this hen home to eat?” the farmer asked Marvin.

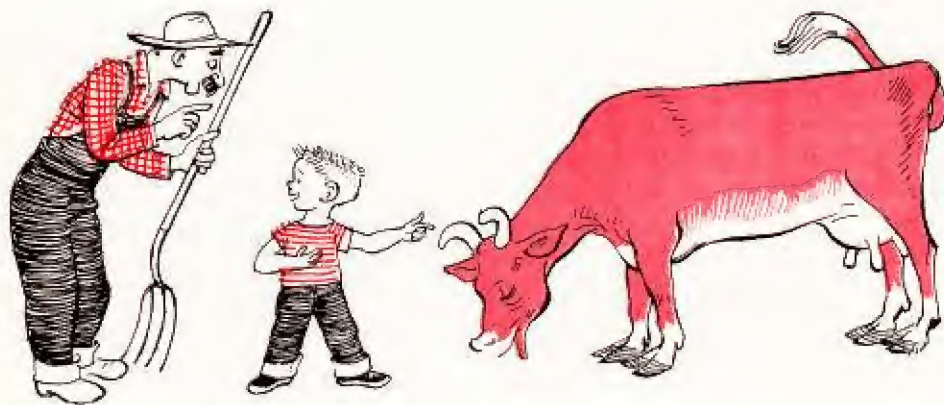
“Oh, I would, I would!” said Marvin. “But tell me—what does it eat?”





At the farm Marvin saw a cow.

"What are those two things on  
her head?" he asked.



"Those are horns," said the  
farmer.



Just then the cow went "Moo."



"Say!" said Marvin. "Which one of those horns did she blow?"



Another day  
Marvin ran into  
his house. He  
let a fly come in.



Then Marvin  
ran out of the  
house.  
He let in  
another fly.



Marvin ran into  
the house again.  
Another fly  
came in.





At last his  
mother said,  
"Marvin, I wish  
you would not  
run in and out  
of the house. I  
do not like all  
of these flies in  
here."



Marvin said,  
"All right,  
Mother, show  
me which flies  
you do not like,  
and I will make  
them go out."



Marvin went over to play with  
Sammy. "What time is it?"  
asked Sammy.



"I do not know," said Marvin,  
"but I know it is not five yet."



"How do you know it is not five yet?" asked Sammy.



"Because," said Marvin, "Mother said I must be home at five. I am not at home, so it can not be five yet."





Marvin got a new watch.



Jenny asked him, "Does  
your watch tell the time?"



"No, it never tells the time," said Marvin. "I have to look at it."



"Mother," said Marvin, "Andy and I want to play elephants, and we want you to play with us."



"How can I play elephants with you?" his mother asked.





"Oh, you can," said Marvin.  
"You can play the nice lady  
who gives us peanuts."



**T**hat night, Marvin was in bed.

His mother called up to him:  
"Marvin, did you put out the  
light?"



Marvin said, "How would I know? It is too dark here for me to see the light."

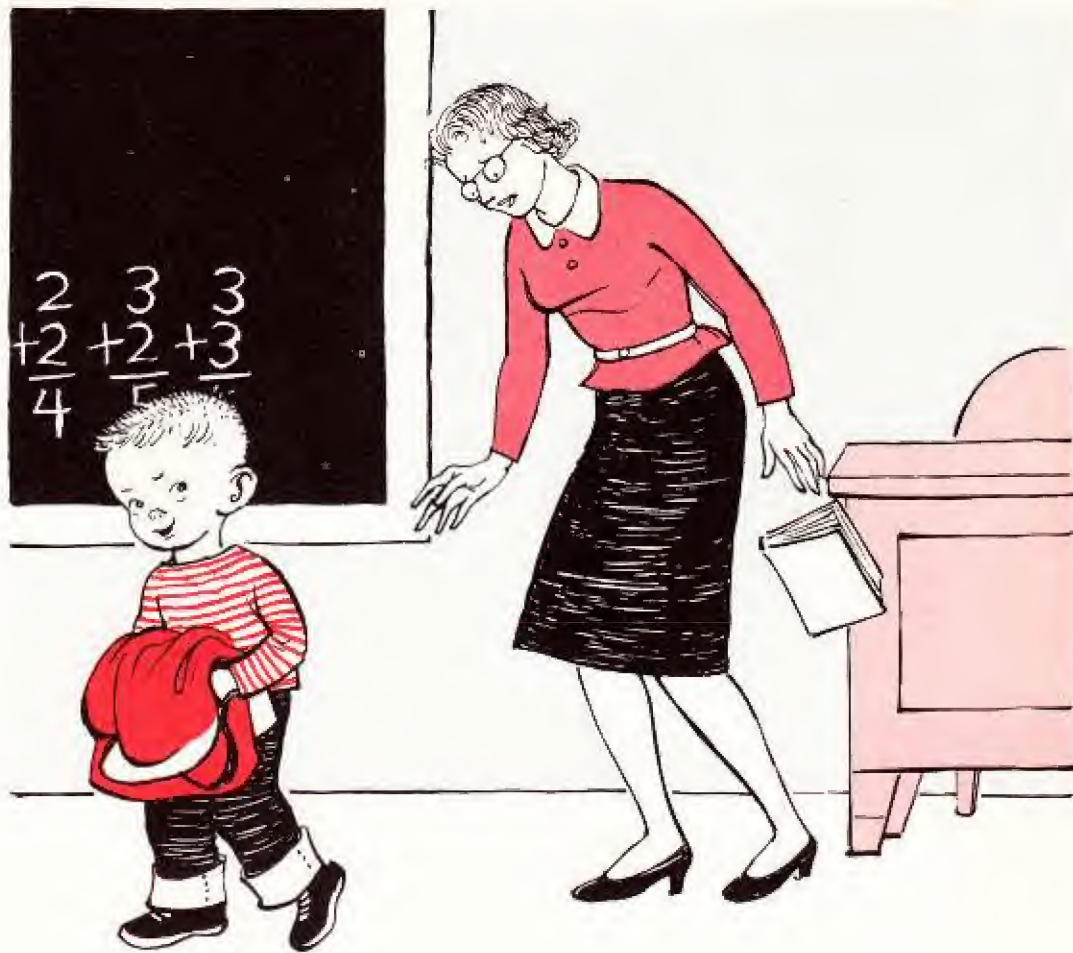




**T**he next day Marvin asked his teacher, "Would you be mad at me for something I did not do?"



"Why no, Marvin, I would never be mad at you for something you did not do."



"That is good," said Marvin,  
"because I did not do my  
homework."



“Marvin,” his teacher said, “If I lay one egg here and another egg there, how many eggs will there be?”

Marvin said, “There will not be any eggs.”

“No eggs!” his teacher said.  
“Why not?”





"Because," Marvin said, "you  
can not lay eggs."

On the way home Jenny said,

"Marvin, look at my  
grandmother.

She went in to get her hair cut.

Now, she will not look like an  
old lady any more."







"I can see that," said Marvin.  
"Now she looks like an old  
man."





One day Marvin had his hand on the wall of a house. A lady asked him, "Why do you have your hand on the house like that?"

"I have to have  
my hand here,"  
said Marvin.

"I have to hold  
the house up."



"Hold the house  
up? That is not  
funny," the lady  
said. "Go on  
home!" So——





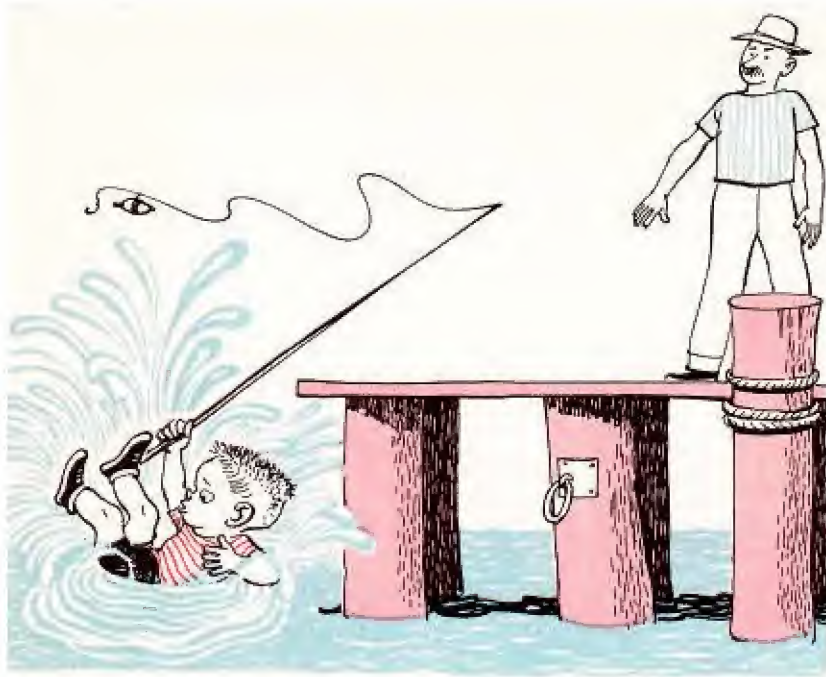


Marvin did — and the house  
fell down!









The next day Marvin fell in a lake.



A man saw him fall in and came to get him out.



The man asked him, "How did  
you come to fall in?"



"I did not come to fall in,"  
said Marvin. "I came to fish."





That night Marvin ran to his father.

"Father," he called, "Andy just swallowed my ten cents!"

So father shook Andy.



He shook him —



and shook him —



and shook him —





At last a dime  
came out of his  
mouth.

"Here it is!"  
said Marvin's  
father. "Here is  
your dime."







"But this is not my dime," said Marvin. "Andy swallowed ten pennies!"



"Marvin," his  
mother said, "put  
your shoes on!"



So Marvin put  
his shoes on.



Then his mother  
said, "Look here,  
Marvin. You did  
not put your  
shoes on the  
right feet!"



“But, Mother,” said Marvin, “I  
do not have any other feet to  
put them on.”





One day, Marvin did not clean  
his room. His mother said,  
"Look at this room.  
Just look at all this dust!"

Why, you can  
write your name  
on this with  
your finger."



"It is good that  
I can write it  
with my finger,"  
said Marvin. "I  
do not know how  
to write it with  
a pencil!"

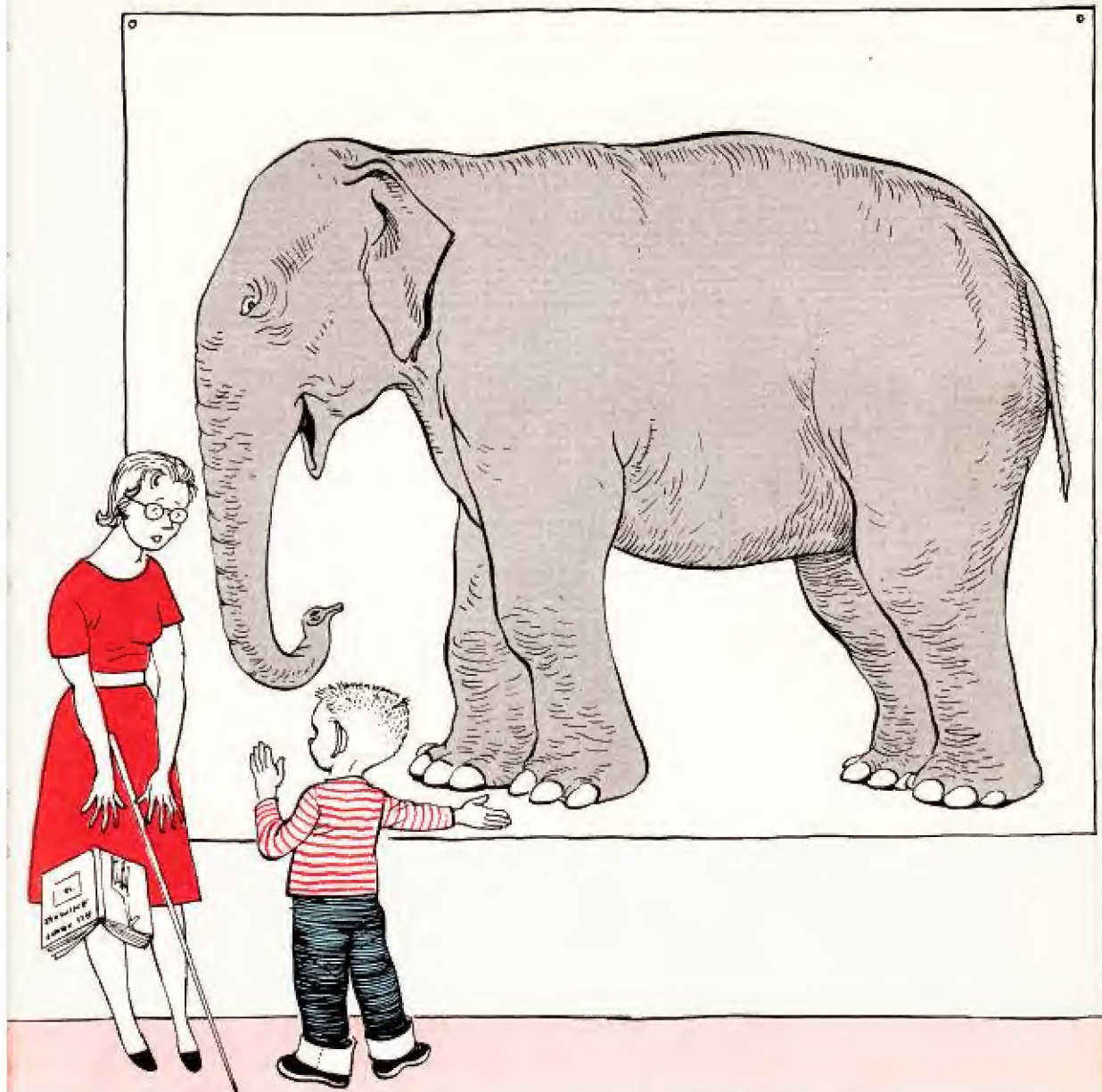






One day his teacher said,  
“Marvin, here is an elephant.  
Can you tell us where we find  
elephants?”





Marvin said, "We do not have  
to find elephants. They are so  
big they never get lost."



Marvin made a picture. It had lots of colors. A lady came over to see it.



"Oh, what nice colors!" said the lady.

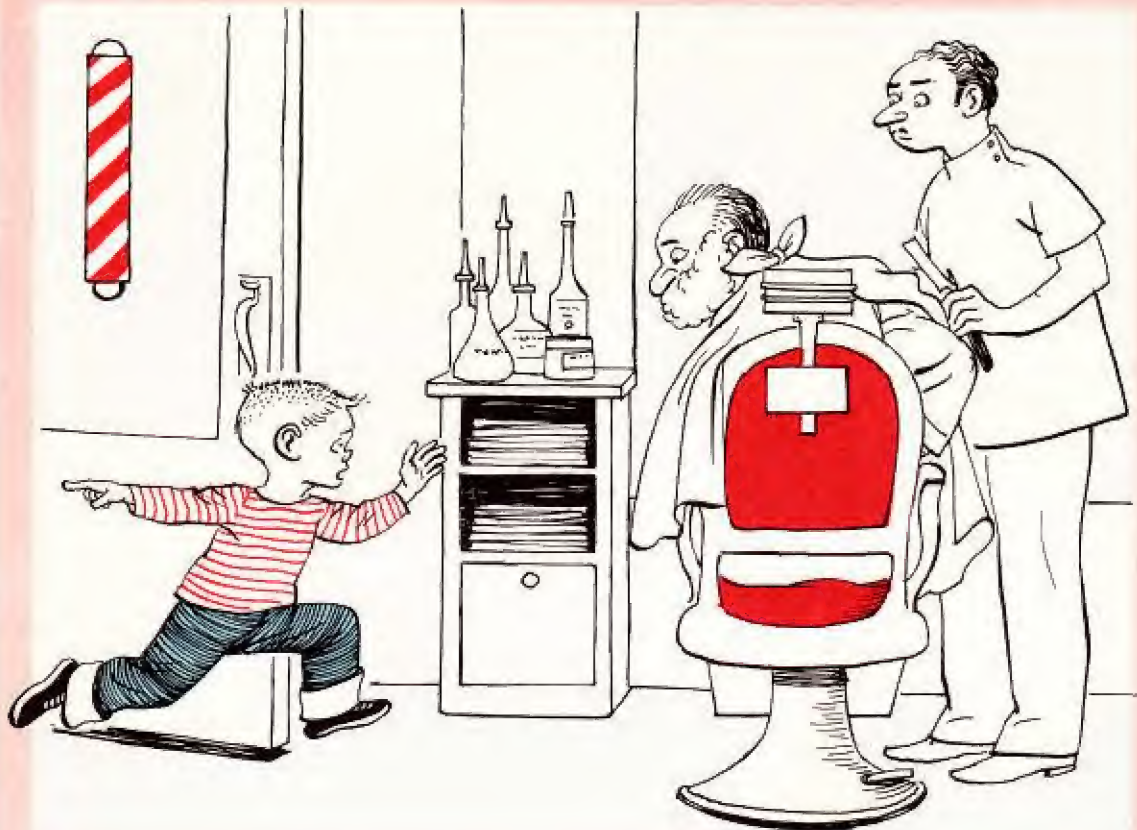
"Your red is so nice. Your blue is so nice! I wish I could take those nice colors home with me."





"You will," said Marvin. "You just sat down on them."





**T**he next day, Marvin ran over to a man and said, "Mr. Smith, your house is on fire!"

The man  
jumped up





and ran,



and ran,



and ran.

And —

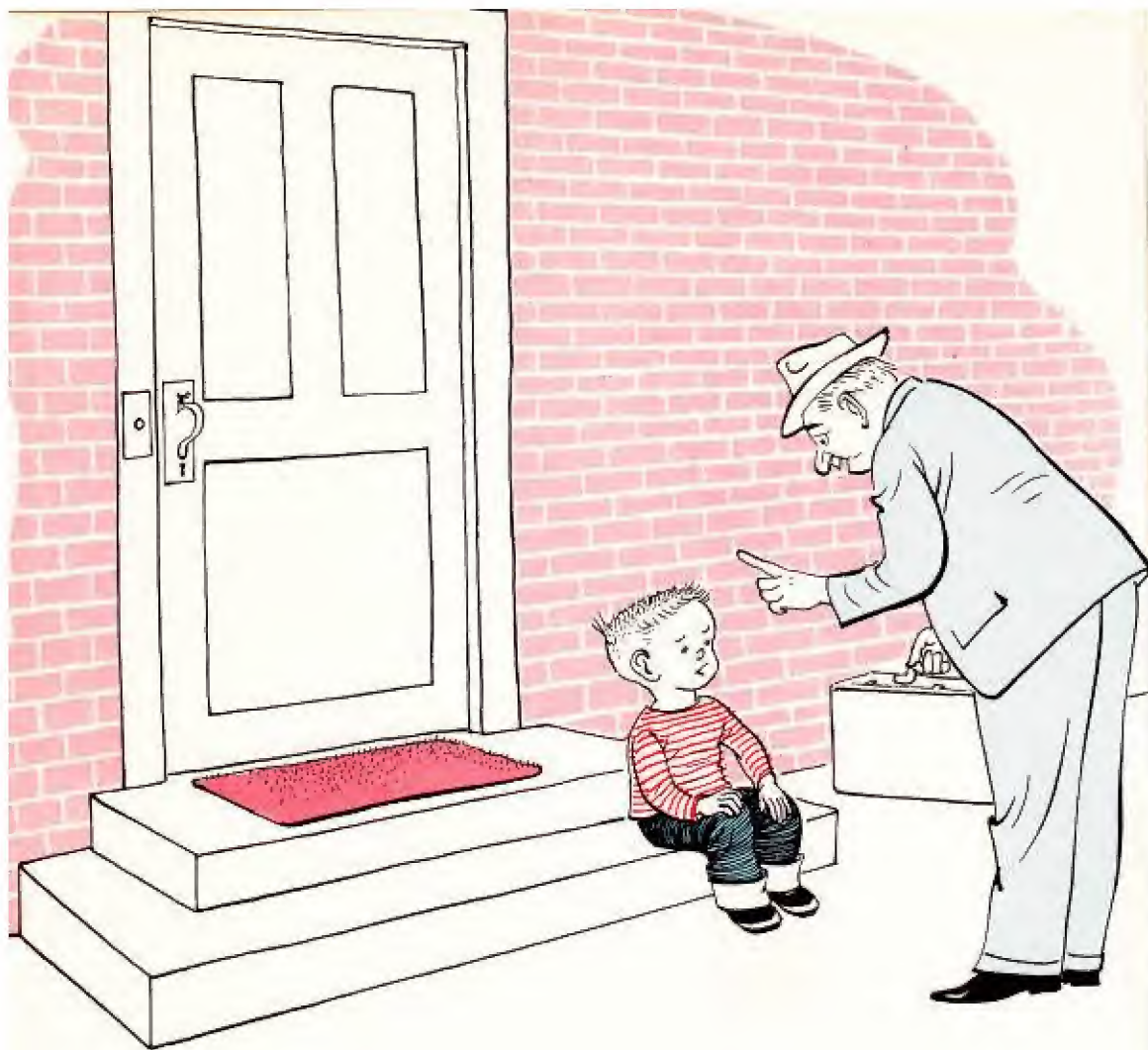


—Then he stopped and he said,  
“Why did I run?”





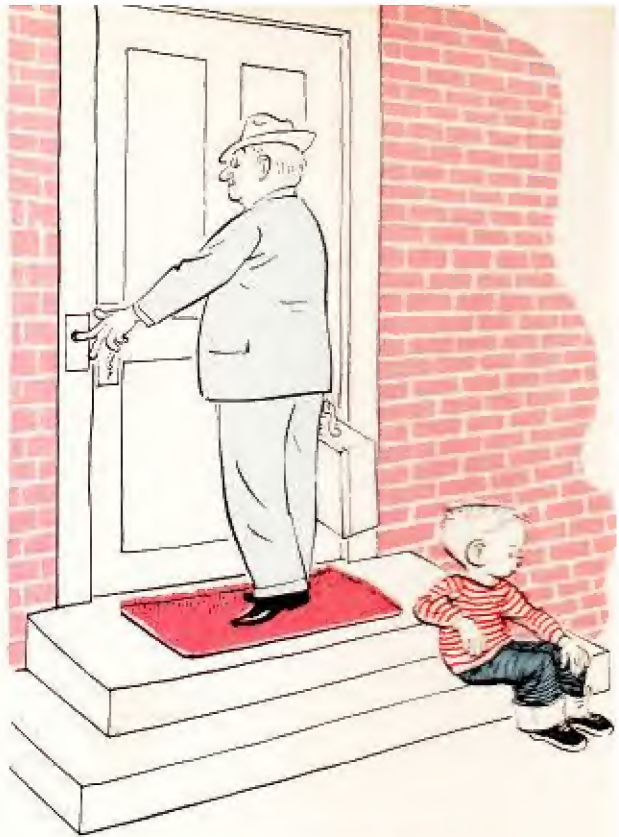
My name is not Smith! My  
name is Jones!"



Marvin sat on the steps of a house.  
A man came up to Marvin and asked,  
"Boy, is your mother at home?"  
"Yes," said Marvin, "she is at home."  
"Good," said the man, "then I will  
ring the bell."



So he rang the bell, but no one came. He rang the bell again, but still no one came.



He rang again and again and again and again and again but no one came. Then——







He said to  
Marvin, "Boy, did  
you tell me your  
mother was at  
home?"

"Oh, yes,"  
Marvin said, "she  
is at home."

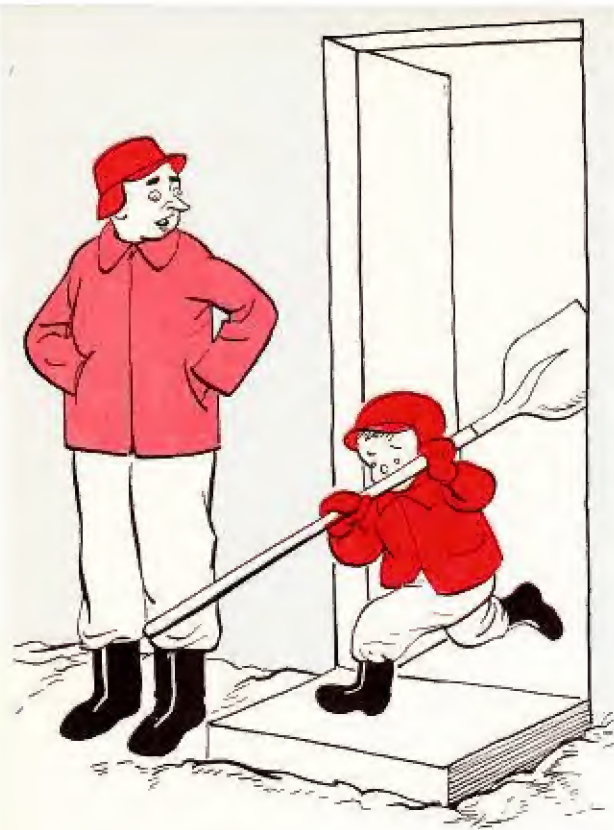


"Then why does  
she not come to  
the door when  
I ring?"



"Because," Marvin said, "she is not here. This is not my house."





ne cold day,  
Marvin ran out  
with a shovel.

"Where are you  
going with that  
shovel?" his  
father asked.



Marvin said,  
"A boy fell in  
the snow up to  
the top of his  
shoes. I am  
going to dig him  
out."



His father said,  
"He is in the  
snow just up to  
the top of his  
shoes? Why  
must you dig  
him out? He can  
walk out."



"Not this boy,"  
said Marvin.  
"He fell in head  
first."





Marvin had on his good pants.

He was going out with a pail.

His mother asked, "Where are you going with that pail?"

"I am going to get some snow," said Marvin.



"What?" said his mother. "In  
your good pants?"



"Oh no, Mother,"  
said Marvin. "In my  
pail."







That day Marvin  
came home from  
a party.

He said to his  
mother, "I had  
a lot of ice  
cream and cake  
at the party.  
The ice cream  
was so good I  
took some for  
you."





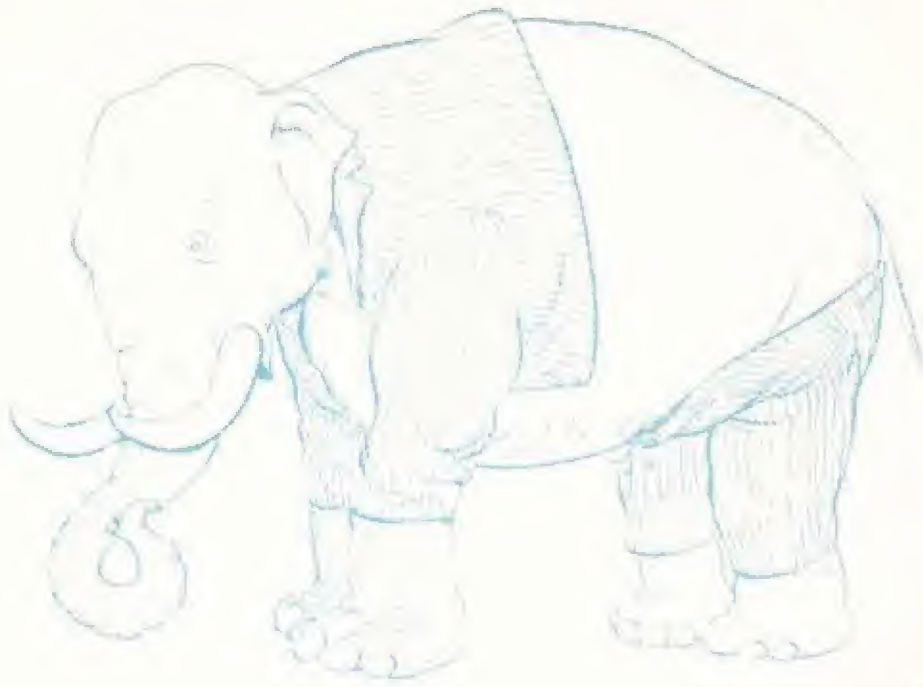
Then Marvin put his hand in  
his pocket.

"That is funny," he said. "Now  
where is that ice cream I put  
in my pocket for you?"

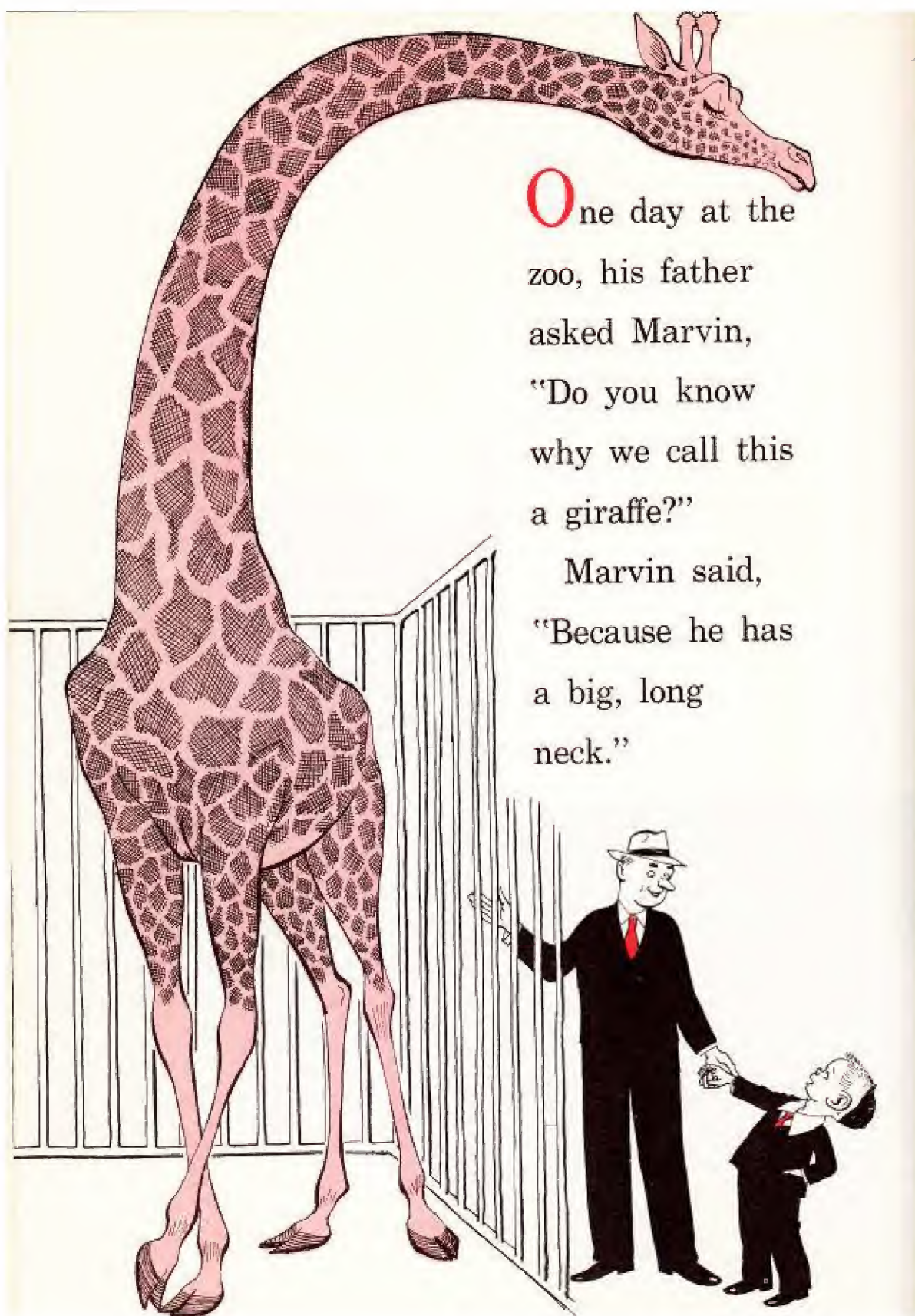


Sammy told Marvin, "One time  
my father shot an elephant in  
his pajamas."





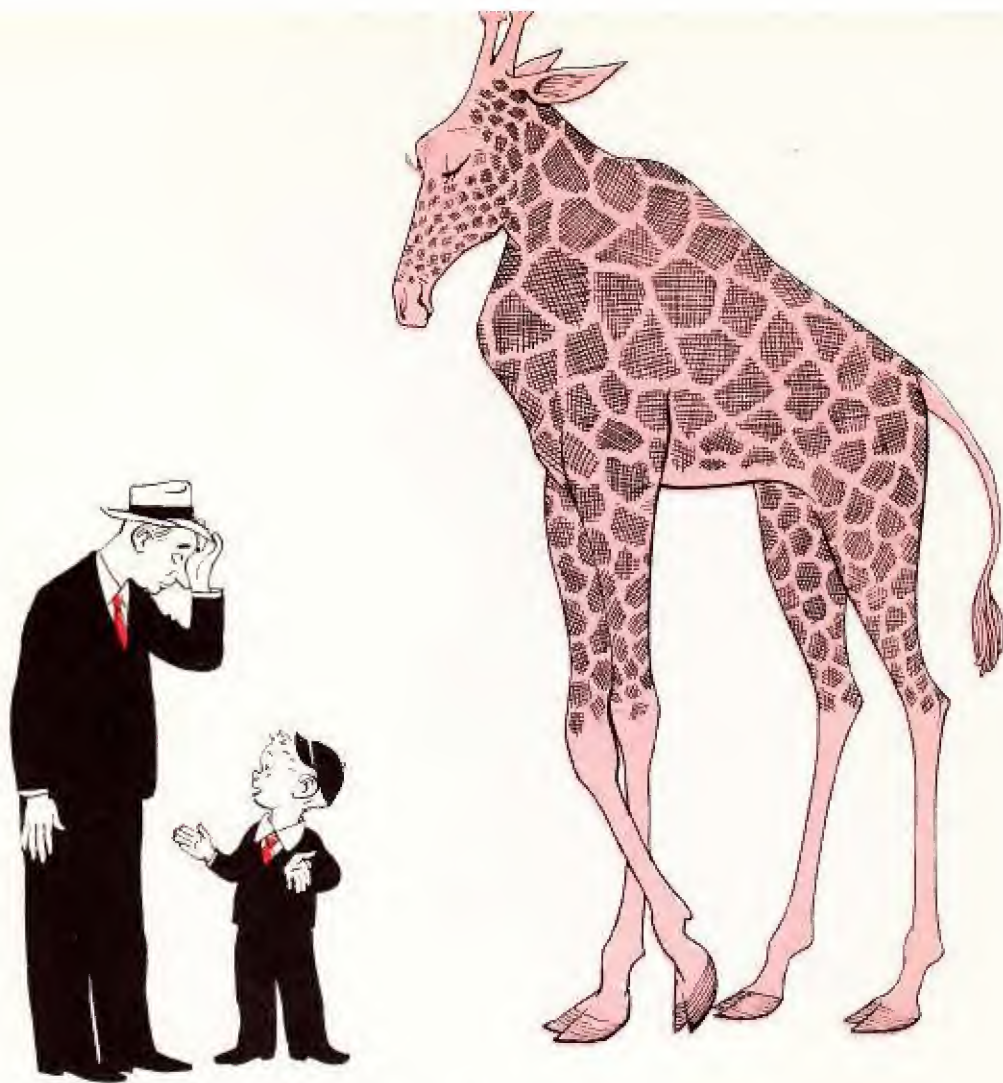
Marvin asked,  
"How did the  
elephant ever  
get into your  
father's pajamas?"



One day at the zoo, his father asked Marvin, "Do you know why we call this a giraffe?"

Marvin said, "Because he has a big, long neck."

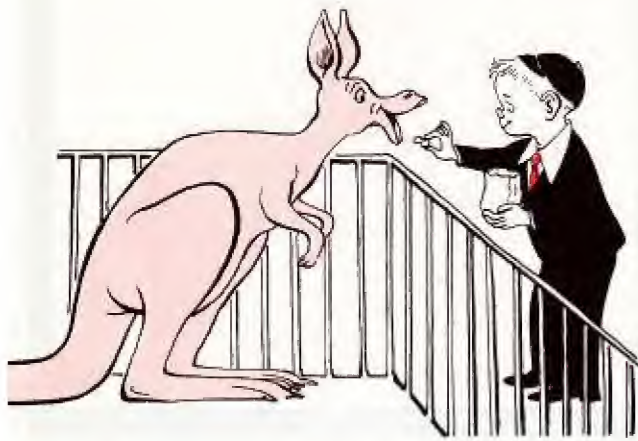




His father said, "Why would his long neck make us call him a giraffe?"

"Well," said Marvin, "did you ever see a giraffe with a short neck?"



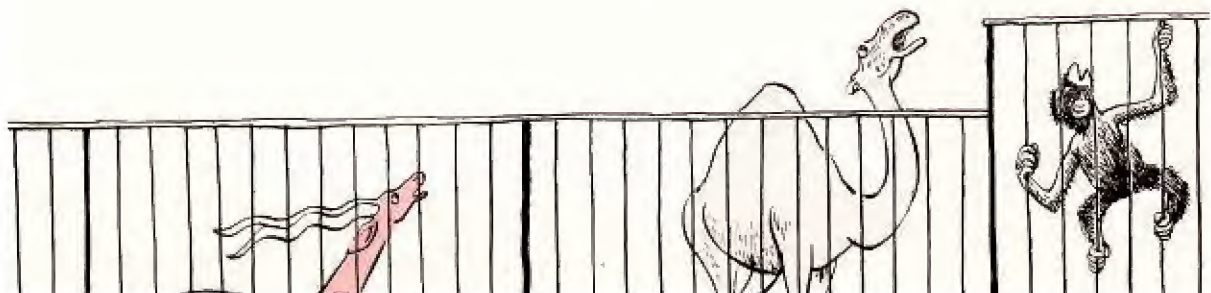


Marvin gave a kangaroo some peanuts.





Then the kangaroo jumped  
right out of his pen. He jumped  
far away . . .





A man ran up and asked Marvin,  
“What did you do to make that  
kangaroo jump so far?”

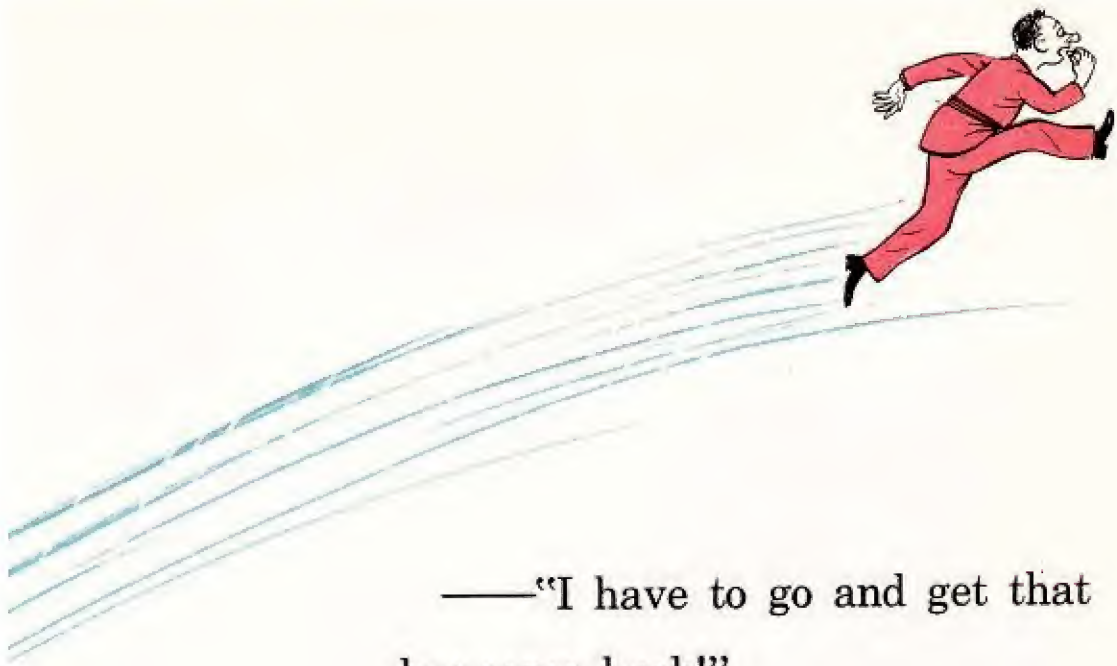




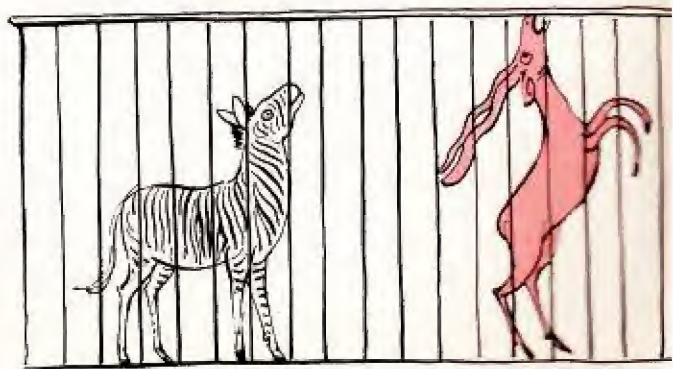
"I just gave him some peanuts," said Marvin.

"Then give me some peanuts, too," said the man. "Because——"





——“I have to go and get that kangaroo back!”







Marvin was at Sammy's house.

"I have to go home now," said Marvin.

"Do come again," said Sammy's mother. "We would like to see more of you."



"How can you see more of me?" asked Marvin. "This is all there is of me. There is no more of me."







